

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

THOMAS A. EAMES, ROBERTA L. )  
EAMES, and TAMMY EAMES, on behalf )  
of themselves and all others similarly )  
situated, )  
Plaintiffs, )  
v. ) Civil Action No. 04-1324-KAJ  
NATIONWIDE MUTUAL INSURANCE )  
COMPANY, )  
Defendant. )

**ORDER APPOINTING SPECIAL DISCOVERY MASTER**

WHEREAS, the Court concludes that the appointment of a Special Master is warranted in the above-captioned case and the parties have been consulted as to whom would be an appropriate individual to serve in that capacity;

NOW THEREFORE, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2005, it is HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. James W. Semple is appointed as Special Master.
2. As required by Rule 53(b)(2), the Special Master shall proceed with all reasonable diligence and, as provided by Rule 53 (c), shall have the authority to regulate all proceedings and take all measures necessary to manage discovery, conduct hearings on discovery disputes and rule on same.
3. The Special Master shall, after consulting with the parties, establish procedures for the handling of discovery disputes. He shall have the duty and authority to require the submission of reports, call conferences, and hold hearings in order to

determine the status of discovery, to issue orders requiring the parties to adhere to discovery and case management dates set by the Court. He shall hear, resolve and make rulings on all disputes regarding discovery and, when appropriate, enter orders setting forth his rulings.

4. Except as otherwise ordered by the Special Master, the filing, service and hearing of discovery-related motions shall be governed by Case Management and Standing Orders and the Rules of this Court.

5. The Special Master shall hear matters promptly and at such times as may be convenient, at the discretion of the Special Master. All hearings and conferences before the Special Master shall be held in this District's Courthouse or at an appropriate other place arranged by the parties, with the approval of the Special Master. The party presenting a motion shall arrange for a court reporter at the hearing and provide a copy of the transcript to the Special Master thereafter. The parties shall equally bear the costs of the court reporter and transcript provided to the Special Master.

6. The Special Master shall not communicate ex parte with a party without the consent of all of the parties. The Special master may communicate ex parte with the Court.

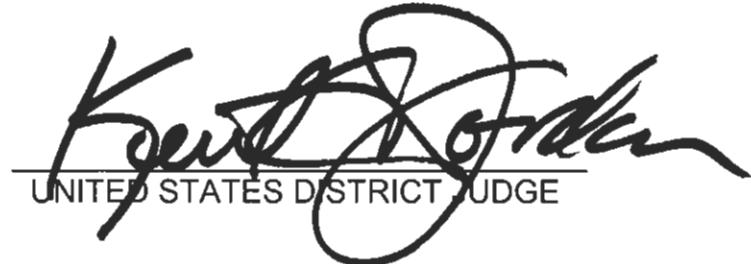
7. The Special Master shall preserve all materials he receives or prepares in connection with any dispute regarding discovery. He shall not be required to file any such materials with the Court, unless directed to do so by the Court, except that he shall file any orders entered setting forth his rulings and any opinions prepared supporting his rulings.

8. The Special Master may have access to trade secrets, proprietary information or other confidential information in this action including, but not limited to, information which may be subject to a protective order. He and other persons assisting the Special Master shall preserve and protect the confidentiality of all such information and, if required to file any orders, findings, opinions or materials that contain or make reference to any such information (including, but not limited to, information designated "Confidential," "For Attorneys Eyes Only" and/or "Sensitive Superconfidential"), he shall file the same under seal.

9. The Special master's rulings shall be subject to review by the Court, consistent with Rule 53(g)(3)-(5).

10. The Special master shall be compensated for his services at his usual hourly rate. Others assisting the Special Master shall be compensated at their usual hourly rates. The Special Master shall send statements for services and expenses directly to counsel for the parties on a monthly basis, and shall receive payment directly from counsel for the parties in a timely fashion. The compensation and expenses of the Special Master shall, unless otherwise ordered by the Special Master, be shared equally by the parties. In this regard, if in the Special Master's opinion, a party engages in behavior which occasions the waste of the Special Master's time and resources, or otherwise hinders the efficient resolution of matters before the Special Master, that party may be apportioned all or a larger portion of the Special Master's compensation,

costs and expenses. Any objections or disputes as to matters of the Special Master's compensation and/or expenses shall be presented to the Court in a timely application.



Kurt J. Parker  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE